"Recent Trends in Indian English Novel"

(A Thematic study of Three Contemporary Novels)

A Synopsis

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INTRODUCTION

This chapter shall deal with a brief history of Indian English novels there by sketching down the development of the Indian English novel that is really the story of the changing India. The chapter shall highlight how with the coming of great Indian trio Mulk Raj Anand, Raja Rao and R.K. Narayan the Indian English novel began its journey.

The early novels were the patriotic depictions of Indian, but with the advent of Indian Independence India grew out of her own streak of imperialism during the emergency and thus the Indian idiom began to change. The publishing of Salmaan Rushdie's *Midnights Children*, the entire scenario of Indian English novels went topsy turvy. He opened the doors to a plethora of writers.

This chapter shall study and unfold the major changes in Indian English novels thereby bringing in to focus the recent trends in Indian English novels. It shall also include a brief career graph of the three novelists whose works the research work shall deal with.

***The Minotaur*: The History of Ideas**

Sunil Sharma , as quoted by Shaleen Singh in his article "The Minotaur; ''A Revolutionary's Journey 'From Noble idealism to total Dictatorship'', writesChristopher Rollason -

''Being a first rank Marxist critic and freelance journalist; has sound understanding of contemporary socio-political realities grounded in the history".(Page 182 Political Novel- The Beaten Track and The path Ahead Edited by Purnima Anil, Sandhya Saxena & Jaba Kusum Singh. Aadi Publications Jaipur India)

The chapter shall study the theme of the novel which is a story of a despot called Constantine Ceaser of the third world nation who rises and falls during and after a gory civil war. The main focus of this chapter shall be to untie the major concern of this novel. Sunil Sharma shows through the character of Ceaser Constantine the life of an ambitious tyrant who is one at the same time an individual as well a representative of all ruthless men who cares for none but their own personal and selfish gains. Thus the life history of Constantine is both an individual and pluralistic story,who is fascinated by power and power in this novel is thus a historical product. Constantine is not an individual. Sunil Sharma in this way surfaces in this novel all power hungry political tyrants who are identical in all ages and in all countries.

Not Their Lives- A burial of relationship

P.C.K. Prem's 'NOT THEIR LIVES' is comparing and contrasting political changes and family relationships. The major theme of this novel shall be discussed in this chapter highlighting how political atmosphere affects family life. The story is a love triangle between Veeja, Vicky and Ruby. The novel projects how personal relationship is spoiled by public interference. The character of Ruby's father Rama is of a typical orthodox Indian father for whom social status is more important than personal relationship. The chapter shall deal how blood relationships are based on self-interest.

P.C.K. Prem in this novel makes it clear that in postcolonial India family relationships are often over shadowed by politics and self-interest ,where no one is a foe or friend.

Kalpana Rajpoot quotes A.K. Chaturvedi writes in her article " PCK Prem's Not Their Lives Mapping the Post –colonial Family Relations in Political Din"

.'' The inevitable predicament that politicians generally have to face emanates from their ambivalent and fickle loyalties. More often than not, they helplessly flap between their commitment to their party and their loyalty to their friends and followers. For the realization of their selfish ends, the friends, relatives and followers of politicians stand in the way of discharging their political responsibilities in a justified manner. This leads to their predicament that haunts them more relentlessly than any other problems. For the fulfillment of their obligations as custodians of political ethics, they must need to sacrifice the interests of their near and dear ones.''

(Page 197 Political Novel-The Beaten track and The Path Ahead . Edited by Purnima Anil , Sandhya Saxena, & Jaba Kusum Singh. Aadi Publications, Jaipur India . 2012

The Great Indian Inferno- Unmasking Fundamentalism

The fourth chapter of proposed research shall be devoted to study the theme of P.V. Jaganmohan ‘’The Great Indian Inferno .The concerned novel deals with various issues likes criminalization of politics , selfishness of the leaders for vote bank , terrorist activities in the name of Jehad, destabilization of secularism, aterocities on women, paralytic administration corrupt judiciary and the like. Among all these disparities the love relation of Jahan Shah and Parvati blossoms. The writer being an civil servant himself shows Jahan Shah as an I.P.S. Jahan Shah is an ideal brother and a secular being the story line rotates around negativism with Jahan Shah. The positive point in the centre of the circle. The great demolition of ‘’Ayodthya’’is used by Jaganmohan not only a singular case but also as a symbolic image of the ruin of all positivity of Indian society. Sudhier Arora in his chapter “P.V. Jaganmohan’s The Great Indian Inferno: A Critique” concludes that

‘’ The Great Indian Inferno’’ makes the reader conscious of the circumstances that lead to the appalling act which could have been avoided if the intensity of the problem had been duly considered. In this regard the novelist has succeeded in his attempt of unmasking the faces of the fundamentalists. The novel offers an idea of communal harmony and the new meaning of Jehad- Jehad against fundamentalists.’’

(Page 205 Political Novel –The Beaten track and The Path Ahead . Edited by Purnima Anil , Sandhya Saxena & jaba Kusum Singh. Aadi Publications . Jaipur India, 2012

CONCLUSION

The concluding chapter shall sum up the ideas that image in proceeding chapters it shall highlight how recent Indian novels deals with the major problems of Indian society. There by continuing the legacy of their forefathers who to engaged in focusing the major disorders of their time that is BRITISH RAAJ and its atrocities but this carry forward of tradition is similar yet dissimilarity for the three novels that the research work shall study deals with different problems of the society.

Thus in 21 century unlike20th century,the problems are various and situation is grave. The proposed thesis shall try to study how today's novelist in their works deals with various social & political problems. The three novels that are concern of the study have three different themes ''The Minotaur'' brings into surface corrupt political motives for self-empowerment.

''Not Their Lives'' engages itself in discussing the imbalance created by socio political processors in domestic life's.

And the last novel **''The Great Indian Inferno''** focuses on the dissecularization of Indian society.

The concluding chapter shall sum up the major themes of three different novels and highlights the dissimilarities and similarities of the three novels and their respective writers.

Review of the Literature:

Bhabani Bhattacharya. Literature and Social Reality: This Anthology Containing Twenty Articles by dedicated Indian scholars deals with almost all the significant aspects of Bhattacharya'sfictional world with perfect cast on the works of other contemporary novelists.

Bhattacharya, Bhabani. The Novel of Modern India: This book casts light on the trends in the novels of modern India. The socio-political theme is discussed at length in some of the articles here.

Indian English Fiction: Readings and Reflections, ed. Gajendra Kumar: This collection of essays covers the vide domain of themes on different novelists who are deep rooted in the soil and culture of india. A new insight into the works of these novelists is sought after.

Khatri,C.L. Narrative Noodles, Essay on Indian Novels in English: The book Narrative Noodles Essays on Indian Novels in English is a collection of twenty three essays written at different times with different perspectives in mind for journals and anthologies. The first chapters is a synoptic study of trends issues and the limitations of Indian Novel in English. It raises several pertinent questions about nomenclature nature scope and major concerns. The essays are focused mainly on individual novels that range from landmark voices like R.K. Narayan and Raja Rao to the trend setter Rushdie and the spurting creativity in the Post Rushdie contemporary scenario.

Naik,M.K. Perspectives on Indian Fiction in English: This collection includes two types of essays-those evaluating the entire corpus of major fictionists and schools and those attempting intensive textual analyses of outstanding novels like Untouchable, The Guide. The Serpent and the Rope and Midnight's children. The final essay on theachievement of Indian Fiction in

English" is an attempt to survey the entire field and evaluate the total achievement in this genre. A number of collections of critical essays on Indian fiction in English have appeared during recent years but perhaps none of them has the range and depth of this volume.

Sharma, I K. O. P. Bhatnagar, The Critic with A Big Heart: The volume very imaginatively made as it is, presents O.P. Bhatnagar as a pillar of Indian English Writing, with intrinsic faith in Indian English authors. His de texte critical analyses, devoid of intolerance of others' views, are very logically developed and convincingly presented with a forward-looking mindset.

Significance of Study:

The significance of this research work lies in the thematic study of the three novels of Sunil Sharma, P C K Prem and P V Jaganmohan whose novels demonstrate quite a different theme from the other two in turn. Sunil Sharma's*Minotaur* projects a theme of Marxist ideas through the novel while P C K Prem's novel *Not Their Lives* highlights the political, social and familial corruption of the contemporary society. On the other hand, P V Jaganmohan gives another aspect of Indian society where fundamentalism is generating a wide gap between hearts. Thus, the three novelist represent the most recent trends of Indian society which are on the fuss almost everyday and the study of these novelists and their works can open wide areas of new explorations in the zigzag ways of these new insoluble problems.

Objectives:

The purpose of proposed study '*Recent trends in Indian English Novel A study of Three contemporary Novels'* is an extensive and deep research into the vast and varied novels of social and political consciousness of the three towering Indian English novelists who are the most shinning gems of Indian English Novel and whose kaleidoscopic novels have covered almost all the phases of human life viz. social, moral, philosophical, political, economic and literacy and its impact of Post-Independence Indian English Novel.

The tentative study will be a seminal work on the unexplored aspects of the novels of social and political concern and their contribution to Indian English Literature. It will probe into the myriad untouched regions of the world of these novelists. The proposed study as such being the first and original attempt will not only discover the previously unknown facts but also re-approach to the known facts so that it may prove a milestone on the path of Indian Literature as an icon of perfection among the laureates of knowledge.

RESEACH METHODOLOGY

I have resolved to make research on the world of Social concern in the novels of Sunil Sharma,P. C. K. Premand P. V. Jaganmohan. I have taken recourse to the following methods.

1-Eliciting the literary material on the the novels of Sunil Sharma, P. C. K. Prem and P. V. Jaganmohan from the study of Books and treatises of erudite scholars- available for the study of the researcher.

2-The study of various literary journals published in India and Abroad as incorporated in the corpus of the Bibliography.

3-The study of Various News- Papers in English in India and Abroad.

4-By inviting valued opinions of critics and scholars at present living in India and Abroad to authenticate my research work.

5-By the analysis of their novels after close scrutiny.

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